WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE COMING

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The Representation of the People Bill. The First Reading: and Opinions in Parliament and the Press . .	62
Franchise Clauses of the Bill	63
Women's Suffrage Coming	66
The War Bonus Scandal	67
Women's Suffrage of National Importance. A Call for Immediate Action	68
Notes from Headquarters	69

[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Great Events.

"Orders of the Day! Orders of the Day!" The cry rang out through the lobbies and corridors of the House of Commons, as it has often echoed through them before. In the ears of women it had a new, an almost triumphant, sound. For Orders of the Day meant the Representation of the People Bill. And the People for the first time meant actually the People: not men only, but men *and women*. For all who labour for the true representation of the nation in its own Parliament, May 15th is one of the starred days of the year. But we look for brighter days yet.

It is very generally expected that the Second Reading will be taken before the Whitsuntide recess. Whether this anticipation is realised will, we believe, depend largely on the progress made by the Government in settling the Irish question.

"A Great Opportunity."

Lord Courtney's letter to *The Times* of May 15th, under the above title, deserves to be most carefully considered by those politicians who are tempted to alter the terms of an agreed compromise, either by endeavouring to make the proposed form of Women's Suffrage embody the ideal principle of equality, or by striving still to maintain the disastrous exclusion of women from the electorate. As Lord Courtney truly says: "Criticism and minor points of detail will, of course, be forthcoming, but it can never be forgotten that the Speaker's settlement is the compacted fabric of many minds giving and taking, conceding and receiving, and that the thoughtless dislodgment of one tie or thrust must involve the displacement of another support, and possible disintegration of the whole structure." He asks, "What elements of the settlement excite a temper of opposition that can be described as dangerous to its maintenance? Women's franchise is mentioned; but surely we have gone too far to think that this can be summarily rejected and any Parliamentary reform survive. A change of mind on the woman's vote has been so largely admitted, the argument from the work and worth of women in national service has been so frankly recognised, that those who remain unconvinced do, for the most part, stumble into silence, which women do not affront with any indecent show of triumph. This was the one topic on which the Speaker's Conference was not unanimous, but they could not leave it untouched, and they reported alternative compromises, one of which must be an irremovable part of a new Reform Act." Speaking of electoral reform as a whole, he says: "We want a real representation of the national mind, and no one can say how soon there will be a call for its expression."

For our own part, we believe that very strong feeling would be aroused if a serious attempt were made to destroy the present scheme. We note that one of the members of Parliament who voted for Mr. Salter's amendment on March 28th, has had his action severely condemned by the Trade and Labour Council in his constituency. Members who persevere in trying to prevent men and women from obtaining their legitimate right to the vote will hardly be likely to commend themselves later to the new voters.

A Sex and a Fraction.

The world often seems as though it were peopled by one numerous sex and by another sex that in comparison is no more than a fraction. Babies are about equally boys and girls, but influential people are mainly men, with a fractional proportion of women added to make things look more natural. A governing body, a Royal Commission, or any kind of Committee publicly appointed to deal with the affairs of both sexes, regards itself as quite advanced and up-to-date if it has two women among its members to every twenty men.

Teachers Cheap and Scarce.

Cheapness seldom accompanies scarcity, except in the case of teachers, where the demand for cheap teachers on the part of local education committees and ratepayers finds no corresponding supply of eager applicants. Even Mr. Fisher's new minima of £90 a year for certificated women teachers, and the same amount for the full-time teachers of domestic subjects, will hardly cause a rush of women into this professional market. These minima are doubtless only to be regarded as starting salaries; but women may reflect that £90 to-day hardly means more in purchasing power than did a salary of £50 in 1914. Highly-qualified teachers are difficult to get even when well-paid posts are offered. We were told the other day by the headmaster of a big mixed secondary school that the only chance of obtaining a woman-teacher from one of the older Universities was to engage her before she took her degree (or equivalent), the competition of employers for highly-educated women being very keen.

A Local Censorship of Food Consumption.

The Local Government Board has taken a wise step in empowering local authorities to prosecute offenders against the Food Orders. Town and County Councils may not be able "to track out" all the selfish and wasteful people who sin against their neighbours by food-grabbing or food destruction. But they have many opportunities for discovering the greedy and the thriftless other than the actual house-to-house inspection of stores or account-books. Grocers and greengrocers know the weaknesses of "good" customers, and our dealings with superfluities are no secret to the dustman. Should the summer be a hot one, with milk turning sour, and joints of meat getting, in the cook's euphemism, "to smell a little faint," it will become for many an anxious question whether it is better to be ptomaine-poisoned or prosecuted.

The Venereal Diseases Bill.

The Venereal Diseases Bill was read a third time on May 15th.

Representation of the People Bill.

THE FIRST READING.

The Government's Representation of the People Bill, containing provisions for giving the Suffrage to women, received its First Reading in the House of Commons on May 15th. The Bill was not actually read, for it was not yet printed, but Mr. Walter Long, Secretary of State for the Colonies, set forth the main provisions of the measure in a lucid speech. The proceedings were necessarily short, since the Bill was introduced under the "Ten Minutes" Rule; but, as Mr. Long explained, the questions with which the Bill deals have received full and careful discussion by the Electoral Reform Conference over which the Speaker presided, and were also considered by the House itself so recently as March last. Mr. Long believed the House would find that the recommendations of the Conference had been rigidly adhered to in the Bill. Should members of the House find themselves puzzled by any of the Bill's provisions, he hoped they would reserve their criticism until the Second Reading.

The Main Franchise Provisions.

"The provisions of the Bill," Mr. Long continued, "include the franchise for men. We sweep away all the existing complicated and mysterious qualifications, and we put in their place two simple qualifications. There is a period of six months for residence and occupation of business premises of the annual value of £10. We include the enfranchisement of women on the lines indicated in Mr. Speaker's Conference by a majority of that Conference, and we fix the age at which women shall be qualified to vote at thirty."

After touching on the clauses of the Bill which meet the demand that those who are serving in His Majesty's Forces should possess the vote and be able to exercise it; and after mentioning the representation which it is proposed to give to some of the newer universities and to their graduates (including women of thirty and upwards), Mr. Long remarked that the Government, in sweeping away electoral complications, were sweeping away the even more complicated Local Government franchise and substituting for it the simple occupation franchise.

Women on the Local Government Register.

Mr. T. M. Healy at this point endeavoured to find out whether this new "simple occupation franchise" was to be the same for both sexes. Mr. Long in his reply indicated that it would, and this point is further elucidated by the Bill.

Government's Attitude Towards Women's Suffrage.

The Government's attitude towards the various parts of the Bill Mr. Long set forth as follows:—

"With regard to the greater number of the proposals, we put them into the Bill, and we shall do our best to secure their adoption by this House. There are, however, three proposals which stand in a somewhat different position. They are the sailors and soldiers, the enfranchisement of women, and proportional representation. With regard to the first, it has been generally discussed here and in the country, and the universal opinion has been in favour of a very wide measure of enfranchisement for those fighting for us on sea and land, and that proposal goes into the Bill as an integral part. With regard to the enfranchisement of women and proportional representation, the Government feel, as has already been announced by the Prime Minister, that these two questions are in a somewhat different category, and the Government propose to leave them to be decided by the House and rejected or adopted as recommended by the Speaker's Conference.

A New Franchise for a New Parliament.

After touching on several other important matters, such as the proposals to hold all elections on the same day, and to appoint a Boundary Commission to draw up a scheme for the re-distribution part of the Bill, Mr. Long went on to explain that a Franchise Bill must necessarily be brought forward in a "dying Parliament," because if a Parliament alters the electorate, it must necessarily appeal for election to that electorate. The idea that the vote could be given to all soldiers and sailors without opening the door to other franchise proposals, was fallacious. For yet another reason, now was the time for reforming the franchise. There would be much urgent business for all to do so soon as the war should end. "Is our progress to be stopped, and are we to be compelled the moment the war is over to devote months, and it may be two or three years, to the settlement of this domestic question, or are we to be ready in time, so that we can face and deal with those vast Imperial problems that await us?" To such an enquiry Mr. Long could find but one reply, and, "old Conservative though I am," he concluded, he had no hesitation in recommending the House to pass the Bill and thus put its "house in order."

To the Speaker Mr. D. Mason put some pointed questions, the object of which was to learn whether if a Franchise Bill could not be amended by the inclusion of Women's Suffrage, so also it could not be changed by the omission of such an important matter. The Speaker, however, ruled that the House, if it passed the Second Reading, would have assented to the principle of including women, and supposing, at a later stage, the House struck out the clause which contains the franchise for women, it would not have adopted any new general principle, although it would have altered one of the clauses. Mr. Mason thought that the House, in such an event, would have altered the character of the Bill. Mr. Speaker ruled in a contrary sense.

The Opposition.

Lord Claud Hamilton opposed the Bill, but did not call for a division. His main point was the old argument that no "really contentious" business should be introduced during the progress of the war. He did not consider that the Speaker's Conference could be called "representative." And he was afraid that the Bill, especially during its Committee stage, would rouse party feelings. But as for a "generous extension of the franchise," he, like most other people, was strongly in favour of it—only not now. Some other time, after the war, and then by a new Parliament "really representative of the country," though Lord Claud Hamilton did not explain how a really representative Parliament could be obtained without a new register, or why, if it were so representative, he, or anyone else, should desire that the franchise should be changed.

PROSPECTS OF THE BILL.

Opinions in Parliament and Press.

Members of Parliament for the most part speak very favourably of the prospects of the Bill, and have little doubt that it will be carried. It is felt that the Government, in leaving the Women's Suffrage proposal to be decided by the House, has narrowed the issue and avoided all possibility of Women's Suffrage being injured through a multiplicity of amendments, by laying down clearly that it must be "rejected or adopted as recommended by the Speaker's Conference." In any event, it is confidently expected that the moral support of the Government will be given to the Women's Suffrage scheme.

There is no reason to anticipate that the opposition in the House of Commons will be of a serious or prolonged character. As a member of the House pointed out to a Common Cause representative, the majority voting on March 28th in favour of the present Bill being drafted amounted to more than half the total membership of the House. In view of so overwhelming a force against them, it is impossible that the opponents should make much show.

In the London Press a demand for the speedy passage of the Bill has been generally expressed.

The Times remarks that: "The general argument against such legislation in war time is overwhelmed by the admitted necessity for change. No one seriously suggests that the present House of Commons is sufficiently representative to deal with the task of reconstruction which will immediately follow the war."

The Daily Telegraph, in the course of an important leading article, says, referring to the Women's Suffrage part of the Bill: "The Government, as they were expected to do, have chosen the earlier of the two ages between which the Conference forebore to decide, and if the principle of Women's Suffrage is carried—as there is every reason to hope that it will be by a large majority—the age limit of thirty will doubtless be accepted. A hard—may we not say a last?—fight may be looked for in Committee, for though some who were once the stiffest opponents to Women's Suffrage, like Mr. Asquith and Mr. Long, have publicly acknowledged their conversion, the antagonism of others remains immovable as before. The end, however, of this long and, in some of its stages, most painful controversy is clearly brought within sight by this Bill, and no one can question the expediency of getting rid of it before work of national and Imperial reconstruction is undertaken."

The Manchester Guardian speaks of "our present wretched electoral system" which greatly calls for reform, and finds evidence in the appointment of Redistribution Commissions of the Government's determination "to press on with the Bill." Were Women's Suffrage and Proportional Representation to be lost, "the reform would be emptied of nine-tenths of its value to the people of this country and of its virtue in vindicating the repute of England as a pioneer in democracy."

Franchise Clauses of the Bill.

1.—(1) A man shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for a constituency (other than a university constituency) if he—

(*a*) has the requisite residence qualification; or
(*b*) has the requisite business premises qualification.

(2) A man, in order to have the requisite residence qualification or business premises qualification for a constituency—

(*a*) must on the last day of the qualifying period be residing in premises in the constituency, or occupying business premises in the constituency; and
(*b*) must during the whole of the qualifying period have resided in premises, or occupied business premises, in the constituency, or in another constituency within the same parliamentary borough or parliamentary county, or within a parliamentary borough or parliamentary county contiguous to that borough or county.

For the purpose of this provision the administrative county of London shall be treated as a parliamentary borough.

(3) The expression "business premises" in this section, means premises of the yearly value of not less than ten pounds occupied for the purpose of the business, profession, or trade, of the person to be registered.

Where business premises are in the joint occupation of two or more persons, and the aggregate yearly value of the premises is not less than the amount produced by multiplying ten pounds by the number of the joint occupiers, each of the joint occupiers shall be treated as occupying business premises of the yearly value of not less than ten pounds:

Provided that in a parliamentary county not more than two persons, being such joint occupiers, shall be entitled to be registered in respect of the same premises unless they are *bonâ fide* engaged as partners carrying on their profession, trade, or business in the premises.

2. A man shall be entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector for a university constituency if he has received a degree (other than an honorary degree) at any university forming, or forming part of, the constituency.

3. A man shall be entitled to be registered as a local government elector for a local government electoral area if he—

(*a*) is on the last day of the qualifying period occupying jointly or severally, as owner or tenant (but not as a lodger), any land or premises in that area; and
(*b*) has, during the whole of the qualifying period, so occupied any land or premises in that area, or, if that area is not an administrative county or a county borough, in the administrative county or county borough in which the area is wholly or partly situate:

Provided that the occupation of a house shall not be deemed to be interrupted for the purposes of this section by reason only of permission being given by letting or otherwise for the occupation of the house as a furnished house by some other person for a part of the qualifying period not exceeding three months in the whole.

Women's Franchise.

4.—(1) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for a constituency (other than a university constituency) if she has attained the age of thirty years, and is entitled to be registered as a local government elector in respect of land or premises in that constituency, or is the wife of a husband entitled to be so registered.

(2) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for a university constituency if she has attained the age of thirty years and would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man.

(3) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a local government elector for any local government electoral area where she would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man: Provided that a husband and wife shall not both be qualified as local government electors in respect of the same property.

Special Provisions for Persons Serving on War Service.

5.—(1) During the continuance of a war in which His Majesty is engaged, and for a period of twelve months after the termination thereof, any person to whom this section applies shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for any constituency for which he would have had the necessary qualification but for the war.

(2) The statement of any person claiming to be so registered, made in the prescribed form and verified in the prescribed manner, that he would have had the necessary qualification but for the war, shall for all purposes be sufficient.

(3) This section applies to any person who, in connection with the war, is abroad and is—

(*a*) serving as a member of any of the naval or military forces of the Crown, or
(*b*) in service of a naval or military character for which payment is made out of money provided by Parliament, or
(*c*) serving in any work of the British Red Cross Society, or the St. John Ambulance Association, or any other body with a similar object.

Qualifying Period.

6. The qualifying period shall be a period of six months ending either on the fifteenth day of January, or the fifteenth day of July, including in each case the fifteenth day:

Provided that in the application of this section to a person who has been serving as a member of the naval or military forces of the Crown at any time during the qualifying period, one month shall be substituted for six months.

7.—(1) Every person registered as a parliamentary elector for any constituency shall, while so registered (and in the case of a woman notwithstanding sex or marriage), be entitled to vote at an election of a member to serve in Parliament for that constituency; but a man shall not vote at a general election for more than one constituency for which he is registered by virtue of a residence qualification or of more than one constituency for which he is registered by virtue of other qualifications of whatever kind, and a woman shall not vote at a general election for more than two constituencies.

(2) A person registered as a local government elector for any local government electoral area shall while so registered (and in the case of a woman notwithstanding sex or marriage) be entitled to vote at a local government election for that area, but where, for the purposes of election, any such area is divided into more than one ward or electoral division, by whatever name called, a person shall not be entitled to vote for more than one such ward or electoral division.

8.—(1) A person shall not be entitled to be registered or to vote as a parliamentary or local government elector if he has received for thirty days or more in the aggregate during the qualifying period poor relief (other than medical relief), or other alms which by the law of Parliament disqualify persons from so being registered or voting:

Provided that a person shall not be disqualified under this provision by reason only that some person for whose maintenance he is responsible has been maintained in any institution for lunatics within the meaning of the Lunacy Act, 1890, or in any institution for idiots.

The disqualification enacted by this provision shall be in substitution for any disqualification on account of the receipt of poor relief or alms existing at the commencement of this Act, but this provision shall not affect any other statutory enactment for the time being in force giving special relief from any such disqualification.

The expression "medical relief" includes all medical and surgical attendance, and all matters or things supplied by or on the recommendation of the medical officer having authority to give any such attendance and recommendation at the expense of any rate.

(2) Nothing contained in this Act shall, except as expressly provided therein, confer on any person who is subject to any legal incapacity to be registered or to vote any right to be so registered or to vote.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Those among our readers who feel that they do not thoroughly understand the question of Proportional Representation, are referred to the series of articles explaining this system of voting which appeared in our issues of December 1st, December 15th, and December 22nd, 1916, and also to a letter from Mr. John H. Humphreys, Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society, in our issue of February 9th, 1917.

"The Common Cause" Hut.

THE COMMON CAUSE Hut for women munition workers is to be opened on Monday, June 4th, at 7.30. It will be remembered that the Hut is situated in Coventry, quite near to the station, in a district where the need for it is very great, and that, in addition to rest and recreation-rooms it contains cubicles, where girls can spend a few nights on arrival in the town.

We still want £40 to complete the equipment of the Hut. Please help us to raise this sum by sending a donation to THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

We have received an offer of £1 for the turquoise ring kindly offered for sale for the Hut Fund. Will anyone offer a larger sum? The spade ace half-guinea has been sold for 30s.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	946	0	1
Barrow-in-Furness W.S.S. ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Lejeune...	2	2	0
Castle Douglas W.S.S.	1	1	0
Miss A. MacGregor		10	0
Mrs. Gossage	5	0	0
Mrs. Quelch and Mrs. Sainsbury		10	0
Mrs. E. G. Pennefather	1	0	0
Ealing W.S.S. (further don.): Miss E. Wallis		5	0
Redcar Branch N.U.W.S.S.: Mrs. W. S. Fothergill		10	0
In Memory of E. Josephine Troup, per Mrs. Ernest Harrington	1	0	0
The Misses Waterhouse		2	6
	£960	0	7

LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

The Serbian orderlies shown in the illustration of last week's Common Cause, and incorrectly described as Austrian, are the most devoted followers anyone could have. People often ask how the London Units can be attached to a Serbian Division on the Roumanian Front, and are not aware that this Division is part of the Russian Army, and is mainly formed from prisoners taken by it who declared themselves to be Serbians and passionately anxious to fight on the side of the Allies. For that reason, which amounts to desertion from the Austrian Army, they know they can expect no mercy at the hands of the enemy. Shooting at sight is the most merciful punishment accorded. Nevertheless, time after time, during the retreat in the Dobrudja, when, with the guns getting nearer and nearer, it seemed impossible that the Transport of the London Units could fail to be overtaken by the enemy, these Serbian orderlies, though urged to push on and leave the Scottish Women, refused, and with dog-like fidelity continued to work. They were continually without food or sleep, but never grumbled, and always showed the utmost confidence that their leader was doing the best thing possible under the circumstances. This touching devotion was not unfounded, for they were not overtaken by the enemy; but perhaps it was their whole-hearted loyalty that inspired their leader.

Tickets are still to be had for the Concert to be given by the Band of the Inns of Court O.T.C. on Sunday, May 20th, at 3 o'clock, in aid of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Paddington Free Buffet.

Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, Mrs. Foster Salmond, are the artistes. Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson will recite excerpts from his Shakespearean repertoire, by special request.

Tickets (numbered): Grand Circle, 4s.; Stalls, 4s. and 3s.; (unnumbered), Balcony, 2s.; Area, 1s., to be obtained from the Queen's Hall Box Office.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORM.

The following resolution was passed by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies on May 3rd, 1917:—

"That, in view of Lord Curzon's statement in the House of Lords on the 24th ult., we, the undersigned, remembering that the Prime Minister has twice described the proposed Electoral Reform Bill as a House of Commons Bill, ask him for an assurance that as soon as those clauses of the Bill which confer votes upon women have received the sanction of the House of Commons, they will become an integral part of the Bill, for which the Government will then accept full responsibility."

Supported by:—

Catholic Women's Suffrage Socy.
Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Conservative & Unionist Women's Franchise Association.
Fabian Society (Women's Group).
Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.
Hastings & St. Leonards Women's Suffrage Propaganda League.
Independent Women's Social and Political Union.
Irishwomen's Suffrage Fed.
Jewish League for Women's Suffrage.
Liberal Women's Suffrage Union.
Marchers Qui Vive Corps.
Men's League for Women's Suffrage.
National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Socy.
National Union of Women Workers.
New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.
Scottish Churches League for Women's Suffrage.
Scottish Universities Women's Suffrage Union.
Scottish Women's Liberal Fed.
Women's Co-operative Guild.
Women's Industrial Council.
Women's Liberal Federation.
Women's Tax Resistance League.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL SERVICE.

"Shops' Week" is proving a great success. The windows of some of the West-end shops are making a fine display. Applications for clerkships are coming in well. There has been some misunderstanding as regards the eligibility of married women for service in the Women's Auxiliary Corps. They may join it, but should a woman's husband be serving in France, the wife will not be sent there, but will have to content herself with home service.

The scheme for the collection of woollen, cotton, and paper waste is rapidly getting into working order. Various London districts, including Holborn, Lewisham, and Ealing, have opened central depôts, with smaller ones in different parts of the district attached to them. The addresses of the depôts of London Boroughs can be obtained from their Mayoresses or Town Clerks. Some which are in a position to do so have already begun the house-to-house collection of waste material. A surprising variety of articles for munitions are made from paper waste. The list includes cartridge cylinder linings, shell-charge containers, fuse collars and washers, fuse boxes, and 4.5 howitzer boxes.

WOMEN WELDERS' ORGANISATION FUND

The members of the Society of Women Welders appeal to the readers of The Common Cause for subscriptions to help the expenses of their organisation. They are confident that their Society will shortly become self-supporting, but at first their organisation expenses must be heavy, and they trust that those who believe with them that the only protection for women workers is organisation, will help them in their venture.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. M. Longley, c/o The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	64	11	0
Miss Glyde		10	0
Miss Margaret L. Greg		10	0
Scarborough Soc. for W.S. ...		10	0
Miss H. Reynard	1	0	0
Mrs. Tennant...		5	0
Burton Soc. for W.S.		10	6
Miss C. E. Clark		5	0
Dr. Edith E. Goodrich		5	0
	£68	6	6

Correction.—Miss A. Sturt, in last week's issue, should read Mrs. Napier Sturt.

Roumanian Suffrage Demand.—A Labour Party has been formed in Roumania, one of whose chief demands is Universal Suffrage in the true sense—that is to say, for both men and women.

Appointment.—Miss Winifred Mercier has been appointed Lecturer in Education and Tutor for Secondary Students at the Manchester University. It will be remembered that Miss Mercier was recently Vice-President of the Leeds Training College, and was one of the nine women members of the teaching staff who resigned as a protest against certain administrative conditions of the College. She afterwards gave evidence at the Board of Education enquiry, the report of which has not yet been published.

Women Bookbinders Required.—Forty eight women experienced in folding, sewing, or collating, are wanted by the Director of Army Printing and Stationery Services for employment in France; also four women as assistant forewomen. Application should be made personally, between the hours of 12 and 2 or 5 and 7.30, at Room 202, St. Ermin's, Westminster.

THE NEW CENTRAL KITCHEN.

A central kitchen, under the direct auspices of the Food Control Department, will be opened by the Queen in the Westminster Bridge Road on Monday, May 21st.

The prices at the kitchen will be very moderate, but it is in no sense a charity. The main idea of the enterprise is to conserve the food and coal supply of the nation, since, with efficient organisation, it is obviously more economical for a skilled staff to cater for a number of families than for each housewife to buy her own little supplies and prepare them herself. Communal kitchens should also have considerable power in regulating the consumption of particular foods. They can reduce the consumption of bread and cereals by providing other foodstuffs in an attractive form, utilising whatever kind of food is least scarce and expensive at the time; and by skilled cooking they can render nourishing and palatable materials that are highly indigestible when prepared by the amateur, without the proper appliances.

Each day's menu at the Westminster kitchen will include joints, vegetables, and a variety of puddings, in which wheaten flour and other cereals will be used as little as possible, though in the interests of children milk puddings will always be available. Fish dishes, stews, and a variety of salads, will be made a special feature, and in addition to large price-lists, there will be an ample window display of what is on sale each day, with prices plainly marked.

The kitchen will be largely experimental, and will serve to demonstrate to other bodies charged with the work of starting fresh ones, what methods are likely to prove most successful, and what mistakes to avoid.

WOMEN'S WORK IN RELATION TO THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE.

A statement signed by Mrs. Annot Robinson and Mrs. J. R. Tomlinson, on behalf of the Manchester, Salford, and District Women's War Interests Committee, was issued on Monday, and has already been published in *The Manchester Guardian*, with reference to the position of women in relation to the strike of engineers. It draws attention to various difficulties that have arisen through the introduction of women into the engineering industry. The rates of pay of unskilled workers have not been sufficiently guarded, and suspicion and unrest have been caused by the wide discussion at employers' conferences of the permanent employment of women in many processes of engineering after the war. The result, the statement points out, has been a refusal by the men to allow women to be employed on permanent commercial work, as distinguished from the emergency labour of the production of munitions.

The statement continues :—

"The withdrawal of the trade card scheme, by removing more men, renders dilution on private work still more necessary, so that the present dispute really centres round the further employment of women in the engineering trade. The present crisis is but an indication of what is likely to come after the war. Ill-feeling is being created between the men and the women, which cannot be good for trade unionism or for industry as a whole. So far all the dilution agreements in the engineering trade have been drawn up to safeguard the interests of men. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that any settlement which is to bring national and lasting satisfaction can be arrived at only if the women's interests are fully recognised during the emergency period, and the extension of industrial openings for women be recognised as the problem that perhaps requires the most sympathetic and skilful handling of all the many issues arising from the war."

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

Arrangements for the National Baby Week (July 1st to 8th) have now been announced. They include a meeting of health workers, members of borough councils, boards of guardians, teachers, nurses, midwives, and doctors at the Guildhall on July 2nd at 3 p.m., when the Lord Mayor has promised to preside, and Lord Rhondda, Mr. Fisher, and the Duchess of Marlborough will speak. There will also be a mass meeting on Thursday, July 5th, at the Albert Hall at 7.30.

A Child Welfare and Mothercraft Exhibition will be held during the week at the Central Hall, Westminster, at which the National Mothercraft Competitions will take place, and also demonstrations of Dalcroze, Froebel, and Montessori methods.

ERRATUM.

In the letter on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, published in our last week's issue, the quotation from the speech of the Lord-Advocate should be : "It was not an offence to loiter or importune; it *was* an offence for anyone who was a common prostitute to loiter for the purpose of importuning or soliciting."

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The Head *of* the House

—awake as never before to his or her responsibilities not only as a private citizen but also as a member of the body politic—is nowadays disposed to lend a ready ear to admonition and advice from duly qualified Authority, and is loyally resolved to act *pro bono publico* so far as possible.

It is a patriotic duty to economise in food and fuel—but it is no less a public duty to destroy all animal and vegetable refuse, when it has been "rendered down" and everything usable conserved, by burning it. Such refuse is a hot-bed of disease: it putrefies and offers a tempting breeding-ground for flies, and these become the carriers of organisms which they deposit on food or clothing and thus distribute multifarious infections far and wide.

Medical Officers of Health with one voice condemn the utterly insanitary dust-bin—which, now that the dustman's visits are so few and far between, is more than ever a "nuisance" in the most sinister sense of the word. The old coal-range with its uncleanness of another kind is giving place, in the kitchen of to-day, to the dirt and labour-saving Gas Cooker. How then to dispose of one's rubbish in the only way compatible with public decency and health?

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Women's Suffrage Coming.

Suffragists have for years demanded that Women's Suffrage should be in a Government Bill. To-day that great object is achieved. Women's Suffrage is provided for by the Government in its Representation of the People Bill, of which the First Reading was taken in the House of Commons last Tuesday.

Women's Suffrage has become part of the law-making programme of the present Coalition Government, with Mr. Lloyd George at its head, a strong democrat, and, therefore, a convinced supporter of the just demand that women as well as men should be directly represented in the Parliament of their country.

Women's Suffrage has suffered in the past from its non-party—or, rather, perhaps, from its all-party—character. It has had friends in every party. No party in the House of Commons has been its foe. Until quite lately one party only—the party most closely at grips with real life and work—the Labour Party, has been steadfastly its friend. So long as one of the two bigger parties—the Liberal or the Conservative—was in power, there was little chance for an all-party measure. A Government of either of these parties desiring before the war to help voters rather than to give votes, could always postpone putting Women's Suffrage into a Bill by saying that it had a leader, or members of the Cabinet, or even merely members of the party rank-and-file, who were not quite ready for a big reform of the kind. Under party Government there was little chance for an all-party question. It was implied that if there ever came a day when an all-party Government were in power, then, indeed, an all-party measure such as Women's Suffrage would quickly be carried. Few foresaw the awful events which would necessitate the establishment of an all-party Government.

To-day we have an all-party Government. To-day our all-party measure goes rapidly forward towards its place upon the Statute-book. Readers of The Common Cause do not need to be reminded how essentially all-party are the provisions for Women's Suffrage which the Government has been empowered to table in its Bill. These Women's Suffrage proposals have been drafted from the scheme outlined by the Speaker's Electoral Reform Conference, which was a body of all parties, and of members of both Houses of Parliament, appointed to create a scheme for giving to the people of the United Kingdom simple and effective voting powers. The members of the Conference were asked to get over some of the tougher difficulties (such as the right size for constituencies, proportional representation, &c.), so that their scheme, when pre-digested and prepared, might anticipate the probable outcome of victories, bargainings, or compromises conducted in the halls of Parliament. The Conference has taken the early stages, and has fought the early battles. Parliament will scarcely spend its time and risk the chance of a General Election without a satisfactory electorate by upsetting the compromise and fighting all these battles again. Otherwise some parties or groups in either House would wish to enlarge the Bill; others to contract it. To logical supporters of Women's Suffrage, and to those who desire the Parliamentary vote for the younger women wage-earners, the temptation to try to enlarge the scope of the Bill would, in ordinary circumstances, be very strong. But level-headed Suffragists will not now give way to such a temptation, whether based on the desire for an important industrial advantage, or prompted by the wish for demagogic effect. Our true friends will be the first to remind us that it is easy to show off; it is not easy to get even a little done. We have had many, many years for individual speech, for dramatic eloquence. Now comes the hour for collective action, for the accomplishment of Women's Suffrage. It is the hour for work, for watching, for quiet victory.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Women's Suffrage has overwhelming, all-party support. The Labour Party is for it, as of old, and more than ever in view of the necessity for strengthening the position of workers before the end of the war comes. The Liberal Party, as a party, is now on our side, since Mr. Asquith and several of his previously "Anti" colleagues have come to recognise the impossibility of not enfranchising some of the most valuable workers in all fields of national progress. Mr. T. P. O'Connor has, on behalf of the Irish Nationalists, given the adhesion of that party to a scheme which would add many of the women of Ireland to the electorate.

With regard to the Unionists, we know that, on March 28th, the whole party was urged by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr. Walter Long to vote in favour of Mr. Asquith's motion asking for what is now the Representation of the People Bill. The great majority of the Unionists followed the lead given by Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Long. A minority of the party voted in an opposite sense, some few because on the Women's Suffrage question they have linked their political career to a negative faith, but others for reasons which need not be identified with any sort of hostility to a cause that they have supported in time past. Unionist politicians of this latter type, recognising (what they previously questioned) that a new comprehensive electorate is imperatively required by Parliament, Press and People will be the last to wish to exclude from it the women who belong to their country, as the country whom they serve belongs to its women and its men.

Women's Suffrage is coming. The nation is ready to welcome it. Let all political parties unite in giving it. Let all Suffragists hasten its realisation. M. H.

The War Bonus Scandal.

On the question of "equal pay for equal work," it is in theory, at any rate, demonstrable that a woman, however qualified, can never be quite as valuable to her employer as a man, on account of her tendency to "go off and get married." Be this as it may, there can be no two opinions with reasonable persons on the question of whether women are entitled to an equal war bonus with men. War bonuses are not given in respect of excellence of work. They do not constitute an increase in salary. They are given solely in respect of outside conditions, such as the enormous rise in the cost of living, and especially of food, which has been occasioned by the war.

This being so, it is difficult to follow the reasoning which has led so many employers to pay women exactly half the war bonus granted to men. Examples of this practice could be multiplied from all parts of the country and in every trade and profession. The Glasgow women tram-drivers and conductors, who do the same work, and for the same number of hours as men, and who receive the same pay, are given a bonus of 1s. a week as against a 2s. bonus for men. The demands of the Lancashire Tramway women for a war bonus of 6s. 6d. a week (the amount granted to the men workers by the Committee on Production last December) was met by the grant of a bonus of 3s. 6d. for those over eighteen, and 2s. for those under eighteen. The Blackburn Corporation is said to be the only Lancashire authority to give a war bonus of 6s. 6d. to men and women tramway-workers alike. The Gas Light and Coke Co. pay their male employees 5s. war bonus, and 2s. 6d. to women. The Hull Corporation Telephone Co. pay a war bonus of 4s. to men over eighteen receiving less than 40s. a week, and 3s. to men over eighteen receiving more than 40s. but less than 60s. "Females and males under eighteen" receive half these amounts. In the Hounslow district, war bonuses of £10 and £4 respectively, have been granted to male and female elementary school teachers whose salaries do not exceed £150 for men, and £100 for women. In the Post Office, men earning under 40s. received 4s. war bonus, and 3s. on wages over 40s. but below 60s. Women were granted half these rates, and this in spite of the fact that the demand was for a rise in wages of from 5s. to 3s. for men and women *alike*.

The additional war bonus which has just been granted to Post Office employees has remedied the matter somewhat, in that the proportion which the women's bonus bears to the men's is now around 66 per cent., instead of 50 per cent. Where the ordinary pay does not exceed 30s. a week, men receive an additional bonus of 5s., women of 4s. Where it exceeds 30s. a week, but does not exceed 60s., men receive 4s., and women 3s. Where it exceeds 60s. per week, but does not exceed £250 a year, men receive 5s., and women 3s. 6d. This raises the total war bonus to 9s., 8s., 7s., and 5s. in the case of men, as against 6s., 5s., 4s. 6d., 3s. 6d. in the case of women.

Is it, then, claimed that women eat less than men? Possibly some do, urged not by choice, but necessity, in which case their work would probably improve if the grant of a reasonable war bonus enabled them to eat more and better food. It is a penny-wise pound-foolish policy which economises by starving the workers.

Have Women Dependents?

But considerations such as these leave the male employer cold. "Women," he says, with the assurance of one entirely ignorant of his subject; "women have no families to support. Men have. Hence men must be paid a larger bonus than women." It sounds fairly plausible till we come to look into the matter. In April of this year we find that by an agreement between the Railway Executive Committee, and delegates of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and representatives of men in workshops, a war bonus of 5s. is to be paid to men (*i.e.*, all male persons over eighteen), while women of eighteen and over are to be given only 2s. 6d.—a bonus equal to that given to boys. Yet it can hardly be seriously urged that lads of eighteen and nineteen are likely to feel the claim of "dependents"; while the investigations of the Fabian Women's Group proved conclusively that a large proportion of women workers do have to support, partially or wholly, mothers, children, and other relatives. If differentiation is to be made, it should surely be, not between men and women, but between persons with, and persons without dependents. In the case of men this precedent has been frequently adopted. In March of this year L.C.C. teachers with a salary of 40s. were granted a war bonus of 4s. a week, and were allowed 1s. a week for each dependent up to four, on salaries up to and including £200. The Manchester Education Committee, on the other hand, recommended an advance in salaries of married male teachers of £15 annually, and of unmarried males and females of £10, the assumption being that unmarried teachers, of whom the majority are likely to be women, never have dependents to support. In Chiswick, teachers whose salaries do not exceed £175 per annum are granted a war bonus of 10s. per month, plus 5s. for a wife, and 2s. extra for each child or dependent up to three in number. In Finchley, again, teachers receiving under £210 per annum have been recently granted an additional £10, with £5 for every child under fourteen.

Sex and The Cost of Living.

In practice the principle of grading the war bonus according to the needs of the recipients is fairly well-established so far as men are concerned. But when women enter the question, the mind of the employer, and often of the shortsighted male employee, proceeds to work on entirely different lines. Thus in the Boot and Shoe Trade, we find that male operatives earning 35s. or less are given a war bonus of 10s. a week, those earning over 35s., and under 45s., are given 9s. a week, and those earning over 45s., 8s. a week. The war bonus is graded here in inverse ratio to salary, and we should expect, therefore, that women, whose wages are invariably less than men's, would receive the largest bonus of all. As a matter of fact, "female operatives and youths" are given a bonus of 5s. 6d. a week. Comment is needless. It should be noted that in this case the male employees were as culpable as the employers, since the demand for a war bonus which they put forward was for 15s. for adult males, and 7s. 6d. for youths and women.

In October of last year a petition was forwarded to the Ministry of Munitions by women clerical workers employed by the Ministry at Armament Buildings, and other offices, protesting against discrimination between men and women in the matter of war bonus. It was pointed out that discrimination was invidious, as tradesmen do not usually regulate their prices according to the sex of the customer, and also impolitic, as the trade union objection to the policy of dilution is the suspicion that women will be used as substitutes for men, and this causes hostility to female labour. Early in 1917, a meeting was held of women clerks in Government Departments to demand an equal bonus with men, and we now learn that the Conciliation and Arbitration Board appointed to consider the claims of the "less highly paid classes of Civil Servants to an increased war bonus," has issued an award

granting a further bonus to large classes of permanent Civil Servants. One of the chief features distinguishing it from the previous war bonus granted by the Treasury is the relative increase in the amount granted to women, the rates for the additional bonus now being as follows:—

1. Where the ordinary pay does not exceed 30s. a week—5s. a week to men and 4s. a week to women.

2. Where it exceeds 30s. a week, but does not exceed 60s.—4s. a week to men and 3s. a week to women.

3. Where it exceeds 60s. a week, but does not exceed £250 a year—5s. a week to men and 3s. 6d. a week to women.

This raises the total war bonus, as in the case of the Post Office employees, to 9s., 8s., 7s., and 5s. in the case of men, and 6s., 5s., 4s., and 3s. 6d. in the case of women.

In certain rare cases where women have been granted war bonuses at a higher rate than men, a lurid light is thrown on the pre-war wages of women. In the tin-box trade, for instance, the minimum wage for women of eighteen and upwards has been raised from 14s. 1d. to 16s. 3d. a week—at present prices, not a living wage. The minimum wage for men of twenty-two and upwards in the same trade has been raised from 26s. to 30s. 4d. a week. In the confectionery trade, wages are even lower. The Sugar Confectionery and Food Preserving Trade Board (Ireland) recently raised the minimum wage for women workers of eighteen and upwards from 10s. 10d. to 13s., and for men of twenty-two and upwards from 22s. 9d. to 24s. 11d. In each case the hours worked are fifty-two per week. The foregoing figures reveal the comfortable belief that adequate food and money are bad for women, and the sooner this belief is scrapped the better for the race.

J. Brodie.

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Women's Suffrage of National Importance.

A Call for Immediate Action.

The inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the Government's Representation of the People Bill necessitates a revival of many of the old activities of the National Union organisation. But the revival takes place under changed conditions. The Suffrage organisation has always drawn its life from the devotion of many thousands of voluntary workers, who have not given only of their superfluity, but have in many cases sacrificed rest, health, remunerative employment, friendship, and all the many opportunities of happiness which those who seek Freedom may be called on to surrender. But in the last three years there has been another call on the same energies that sustain the Suffrage movement. Those who worked for the National Union in the pre-war days are not less devoted Suffragists than they were, but the time and strength of many of them are now given to sharing in the ever-increasing national effort, or to doing what can be done to stem the rising tide of pain in which communities and individuals are being overwhelmed all over the world.

The moment has come when many women can do no better piece of work for human freedom and happiness and for our country than to seize the golden hour in which the full citizenship of women should at last be won. At the same time, those who are taking part in the nation's struggle for existence cannot relax their efforts. The same motive which has made so many men feel it their duty to enlist, even though in doing so they were obliged to give up, perhaps for ever, work of great human value, must, in many cases, keep war-workers, men and women too, at their posts. Apart from the fighters and munition-makers, a large number of women have recently undertaken public duties of various kinds which cannot be lightly abandoned. Family responsibilities, too, have increased; there is hardly a family in the Kingdom which has not now to bear a growing burden of sorrow and toil; Suffragists, always among the most home-loving sections of the population, naturally take their full share. Children make, rightly, an engrossing demand on the strength of many millions of women. There was never a year when an active woman had so many claims on her as in 1917.

The work to be undertaken for Suffrage in the next few weeks or months is none the less, in the truest sense, work of national importance. The future of our country depends not only on her survival in the present time of peril, but on the rapid restoration of her forces. Reconstruction cannot be put off till some uncertain date after the termination of the war; it must follow close on destruction if the nation is to live, and it is hard to imagine anything which will contribute more to this re-creation of the nation's powers than the immediate enfranchisement of women. The country needs, and has always needed, but never more than now, the service and knowledge and unfettered judgment of all its citizens. The experience of women as human beings, and their special experience as women, can both be of service to the rest of the nation. It is a source of strength, and this is not a time when any source of strength can be neglected with impunity. It is essential to the national welfare, perhaps to the national existence, that all the strength and experience and devotion there is throughout our Commonwealth should be fully and freely used for the benefit of all.

The enfranchisement—even the partial enfranchisement—of women will be a great step forward in the cause of democracy; it will be of immense practical service to the community, and it may—we believe will—be gained this year. But a good deal of hard work remains to be done. The country is full of Suffrage feeling. The great majority of women who are doing war work undoubtedly want votes: the great majority of men are ready to concede at least a part of the claim; but all this feeling needs to be focussed and brought *to bear directly* on the House of Commons.

The moral is obvious, since practically everyone has less to give in money, and most people less in strength and time, it is urgently necessary that every Suffragist without exception should make sure of giving the utmost that he or she can. The few on whom Suffrage work is still the first claim will put all their strength into the work, and they must be able to depend on all members of our Societies to help.

We trust that every member who reads this will care enough for our cause to give all the help that is possible to her own area, and to contribute something, however large or however small, to the National Union Headquarters Fund.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS VIOLET EUSTACE.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

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We are happy to be able to announce that Mrs. Fawcett is rapidly recovering from the attack of bronchitis from which she has been suffering during the last week. Our President has achieved convalescence with the promptitude with which she accomplishes all her good works. We are indeed thankful, for although illness does not prevent Mrs. Fawcett from working nor from being the mainstay of other workers at Headquarters, it would have been a very severe blow if she had had to stay away from us for long at this critical time.

The Committee is unfortunate in the unavoidable absence of Miss Eustace through illness. It seems probable that it may be some time before our Honorary Secretary is able to resume work. The Committee regret her absence for their own sakes, and sympathise with her not only for her illness, but for having to be away when she so much wants to be here.

Political Work.

A memorial is being presented to Mr. Clavell Salter (N. Hants).

Deputations have been received by :—
Mr. Urban Broughton (Preston) and
Captain Bennett Goldney (Canterbury).

Deputations are in process of arrangement to :—

Major J. L. Baird (Rugby),
Colonel Ivor Phillips (Southampton),
Mr. Dudley Ward (Southampton),
Sir Arthur Lee (Farnham),
Mr. J. Wood (Stalybridge),
Sir G. Pollard (Eccles),
Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes (Stockport),
Major Baker (Accrington),
Mr. R. J. Neville (Wigan),
Colonel Alan Sykes (Knutsford),
Rt. Hon. Sir F. Cawley (Prestwich),
Mr. E. Craig (Crewe),
Mr. F. R. B. Denniss (Oldham),
Sir H. Hibbert (Chorley),
Colonel Sir J. Rutherford (Darwen),
Maj. G. C. Hamilton (Altrincham),

A number of deputations are also in preparation in the London area, among others to :—
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster),
Sir George Reid (St. George's, Hanover sq.).

Literature Department.

The Literature Department is issuing several new publications this week in connection with the Electoral Reform Bill, and orders for the following should be sent at once :—

WOMEN AND RECONSTRUCTION: SOME CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO THE POSITION OF WOMEN AFTER THE WAR. Price 1s. (This publication is uniform with the Memorandum issued in the autumn.)

VERBATIM REPORT OF THE DEPUTATION TO THE RT. HON. D. LLOYD GEORGE, M.P. Price 6d.

WOMEN AND ELECTORAL REFORM. A one-page leaflet, tracing the recent developments which led to the reopening of the Women's Suffrage question. Price 1s. per 100.

The text of the Representation of the People Bill can also be obtained from the Literature Department.

1917 Franchise Fund.

It is urgently necessary that all who can should contribute to the National Union funds immediately. The campaign in support of the Bill is expensive, first, because everything has to be done at once, and, second, because travelling is now a costly as well as an uncomfortable business. The National Union has engaged new trained workers, and many Societies have arranged to send deputations to their M.P.s in London. This cannot be done, and above all cannot be done quickly, without spending money. In many cases the Societies or Federations are bearing their share of the expense; but in others where this is impossible, workers are being supplied and expenses defrayed from the Central Fund. All members of N.U. Societies are asked to send a contribution quickly, either to the Parliamentary work of their own Society or Federation if it is undertaking such work, or, if it is not, to the N.U.W.S.S. 1917 Franchise Fund.

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Received from May 7th to 12th, 1917 :—			
Subscriptions.			
Miss Frances A. Geoghegan ...		5	0
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Miss E. H. Vaughan Williams		2	6
Miss C. Young		2	0
Mrs. George Bromet		5	0
Mrs. E. D. Nuttall...		2	6
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Miss Edith Cadmore and Miss Mary Spalding Walker ...		7	6
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Affiliation Fees.			
Sliverdale W.S.S.		10	6
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Budleigh Salterton W.S.S. ...		7	6
Folkestone, Hythe and District W.S.S.		9	0
Barrow-in-Furness W.S.S. ...		12	6
Donations.			
Gloucestershire School of Domestic Science (42nd don.) (Belgian Relief)	3	14	0
Received for Scottish Women's Hospitals	1	0	0
	£1,189	8	8

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary, or to Miss Auerbach or Miss Stirling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer S.W.H., reports several interesting donations that have been received during the past week, including £500 from Mrs. J. B. Walker, Toronto, earmarked for a motor ambulance for the Russian Unit. Donations from India are still being received as the result of Mrs. Abbott's recent tour there, £145 from Rangoon, and £102 18s. 5d. from Cawnpore, being acknowledged.

The sum of £100 has come from the "Hong Kong War Charities Committee."

Great interest is still maintained in their Unit, by the Joint Committee, Girton and Newnham Colleges, who have just sent in £170.

In connection with the donation of 50 dollars, received from a munition factory in Canada, Mrs. Wilkie, in sending this, concludes with the following kind words :—

"As a Scotswoman, the accounts I have read of the work of your organisation have filled me with pride, and my admiration for the heroism of the members of your various expeditions, is shared by the women of many nationalities gathered together in this Canadian munition Camp, and it is with the greatest pleasure that we contribute this sum enclosed, in order to help along the splendid work that the Scottish Women's Hospitals are carrying on."

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland," Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Lady Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurer, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Mrs. Laurie is glad to state that she has received a few donations for the "Serbian Prisoners of War Fund" during the week, the list of these will be published in next week's Common Cause.

Mrs. Laurie would again urgently ask friends to send in further subscriptions to help to relieve the terrible plight of these poor Serbian prisoners.

[*Owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over the list of donations to the Scottish Hospitals until next week.*]

Further List of Beds Named:

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Glasgow Rotary Club" (New Unit) (1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee.
"Ardrossan Academy" (Girton and Newnham) (1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee.
"Holt II." (New Unit) (1 year)	Holt W.S.S., per Miss J. M. Verrall, Hon. Sec.
"Helena Finnie" (further for 1 year) (Girton and Newnham)	Miss Helena Finnie, Springhill House, Kilmarnock.
"Dumfries and Maxwelltown" (two beds) (further for 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, per Miss Young.
"Tollcross U.F. Church Sabbath School" (Royaumont) (further 1 year)	Per Miss Morrison.
"Beith Parish" (Girton and Newnham) (1 year)...	Per Miss Morrison.
"Blythswood Drive" (New Unit) (6 months)	Per Miss Morrison.
"Lady Artists' Club Council" (Girton and Newnham) (3 months, renewed)	Per Miss Morrison.
"Lovat, Dornock" (New Unit) (three months)	Per Miss Morrison.
"Hastings and St. Leonards" (Girton and Newnham Unit) (further six months)...	Per Miss M. E. Verrall, Hon. Treas. Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Fed.
"Birmingham Newnham" (Girton and Newnham Unit) (further six months)	Joint Com. Girton and Newnham College, per Miss Elizabeth Lawder and Miss Isabel Scott, Co-Hon. Treas.
"Lady Gymnasts'" (Royaumont) (further one year)	Collected by Lady Gymnasts, per Miss Audrey B. Ash.
"Gourock Flower" (American Unit) (further 2nd six months)	Gourock W.S.S., per Mrs. Clatworthy Hon. Treas.
"Gourock" (Royaumont) (further 4th six months)	Gourock W.S.S., per Mrs. Clatworthy, Hon. Treas.
"Entente" (Royaumont) (further one year)	The Misses Wishart, Strathearn, Kirkcaldy.

Errata Note.—"Castlecary" bed in list named to April 26th—to donors' names add "per Employees"; also add to Miss Etta Shankland's list of donors' names for Corsica, week ending April 5th, donation from Messrs. Ross & Marshall, Greenock (omitted), £5.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Manchester and District Federation.

Munition Campaign.

Broadheath (Altrincham Constituency).—Factory on war work in connection with submarines. April 25th. Meeting in dining room of works in dinner hour. Miss Simpson and Miss Hampson. Memorials signed.

April 26th and 27th. Open air discussions in dinner hour. Same workers. Memorials signed.

Wigan.—April 24th. Jam Factory, on war work. Dinner hour. Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Fairhurst and Miss Welsh. Signatures to memorial obtained.

April 24th. Woodhouse Lane. Pit brow girls. Same speakers. All signed memorial.

April 25th. 3.25 p.m. Meeting in shed belonging to Worsley Mesnes Pit. Chair: Councillor Edwin Yates, checkweighman. Same Speakers.

April 26th. Dinner hour meeting outside tailoring factory on war work. Same speakers.

Other Meetings.

Bolton.—Annual meeting, May 1st, at 7.30, at St. George's Road Congregational Schools. Presentation and adoption of annual report and balance-sheets. Re-election of hon. officers and Committee. In the absence of Miss Bridson, Hon. Sec., who is engaged on war work in the South of England, the Organiser reported that during the year, two indoor meetings had been held, and also a successful garden party for munition workers. A speaker had been sent by invitation to address five other meetings, at one of which a suffrage resolution was passed. The Society had collected £87 13s. 4d. for the Manchester and District Federation Hospital, besides making a number of useful garments for the hospital, 327 signatures had been obtained for the Manchester and District Federation Memorial. A good deal of work had also been done among local trade unions, as a result of which the Bolton Trades and Labour Council and seven large trade unions had passed suffrage resolutions. Two sewing meetings for poor mothers had been held for half the year, but owing to stress of work one had been given up, and for the last six months one meeting only had been held. A very successful New Year's Party had been held for the poor mothers and children. Thirty-six new members had been enrolled during the year. The Society has also recently collected £53 2s. for the Manchester and District Federation Fund, and has made a grant of £20 from the deposit account, making a total of £73 2s.

A successful public meeting followed at 8 p.m., when the Rev. C. Flower, M.A., presided. Speakers, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Thoday. Mrs. Ashby touched upon many points, and made a strong appeal to women to realise their grave responsibilities, and to seize on their opportunities in this great crisis, in order that the old mistakes might be avoided in the reconstruction that must inevitably follow. Mrs. Thoday gave an interesting account of the many activities of the Manchester Federation with an enthusiasm that knows no bounds, and thanked the Society for their very helpful contribution of £73 towards the Federation Franchise Fund. A resolution was passed, with one dissentient, copies of which have been sent to the Prime Minister and the local M.P.s.

Bury.—Annual meeting, April 24th. The annual meeting of the Bury Society was held at the kind invitation of Miss Johnstone, at 10, Wellington Road. There was a fairly good attendance. Miss Ashworth took the chair, and Mrs. Thoday was the speaker. She gave us a very interesting address on "Women and Electoral Reform at the Present Crisis," and the following resolution, "This meeting of Bury suffragists urges the necessity of enfranchising women on the widest possible lines in the forthcoming Electoral Reform Bill, so that they may be represented in the Parliament which is dealing with the problems of reconstruction," was unanimously passed. Copies were sent to the Prime Minister and Sir George Toulmin, member for the borough. It was decided to organise a memorial to Sir George Toulmin.

After tea, there were questions and discussions, Mrs. Thoday giving us much helpful advice in the working of our branch. An enlarged and representative Committee was elected, and Mrs. Wilson was elected co-Secretary with Miss Ashworth. Over three guineas was contributed to the Federation 1917 Franchise Fund.

Chinley.—April 13th. 8 p.m. Members' meeting at Mrs. Cunnington's, Prince's Road, Chinley. Chair: Mrs. Preston. Discussion on Criminal Law Amendment Bill. It was decided to raise a contribution of £10 to the Federation Franchise Fund.

Manchester.—During the month of April there has been little special Suffrage work in Manchester. The Secretary, Miss Place, addressed a good audience at the South Salford Women's Co-operative Guild. This was the last of a series of meetings which have taken place right through the winter. The Secretary has also been invited to join the Committees formed at the Town Hall under the War Savings Association for dealing with the food supply. The Committee feels that this is a useful piece of work. It is too early to give any details of what will actually be done, but it is certain that a communal kitchen will soon be opened in a crowded quarter.

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The Hulme Suffrage Club has arranged for practical lessons in dressmaking, having just closed a successful set of lectures on the industrial position of women.

A good programme of political work has been arranged for the month of May. The Society has also been asked to take part in the work for the National Baby Week.

MARPLE BRIDGE.—A public meeting was held in the Lecture Room of the Congregational Hall, Marple Bridge, on Friday, May 4th, 1917, arranged by the Mellor and Marple Bridge Women's Suffrage Society. Miss Ker, the President of the Society, took the chair, and introduced Mrs. Thoday (of Chinley), the Hon. Sec. of the Manchester and District Federation, who proposed the following resolution :—

"That this meeting of suffragists of Mellor and Marple Bridge urge the enfranchisement of women on the widest lines possible in the forthcoming Electoral Reform Bill,"

and gave us convincing reasons for strenuous suffrage work at the present time.

Mrs. Annot Robinson (of Manchester) seconded the resolution, and spoke very ably on the question of Women's Labour now and after the war, and the necessity for their help in the problems which will have to be solved at the end of the war. The resolution was passed unanimously, and a copy has been sent to Major Hill-Wood, M.P., together with a letter, regretting that he was unable to attend at the time of the discussion of Mr. Asquith's resolution on March 28th, and expressing confidence that he would vote for the inclusion of women when the Electoral Reform Bill came up, and against the Bill if the women should "by any unimaginable possibility" be thrown out.

The collection realised nearly £2 for the Federation Franchise Fund, 1917. The annual meeting followed the public meeting, and the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read, and the officers re-elected for the coming year.

WIGAN.—April 25th. 8 p.m. Suffrage meeting in the Market Square, Wigan. Chair, Mr. MacCloed. Speakers, Councillor Taylor, Mrs. Annot Robinson.

May 3rd. Meeting, Hope Schools, Mesnes Street, 8 p.m. Chair, Councillor Dr. Rees. Speakers, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Alderman Hilton, Mrs. Annot E. Robinson. The audience was extremely sympathetic and, with one dissentient, passed the following resolution :—

"That this meeting urges that the promised legislation on Electoral Reform should include proposals to enfranchise women."

Both Councillor Rees and Alderman Hilton expressed the hope that Mr. Neville, the Member for Wigan, will support the inclusion of women in the Electoral Reform Bill as he did Mr. Asquith's resolution. At all the open-air meetings which have been held in Wigan, during the last ten days, the utmost sympathy has been shown by men and women to our claim, and a letter is being widely signed by influential persons for presentation to Mr. Neville when the Bill is before the House. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Society was re-organised, and Miss Millor was appointed Secretary, and Mrs. Conner as Treasurer.

WHALEY BRIDGE.—A meeting for members and friends was held on May 2nd. Mrs. Thoday was the speaker, and Miss Simpson took the chair. A resolution was passed unanimously, calling upon Col. Alan J. Sykes, M.P., to support the inclusion of women in the forthcoming Electoral Reform Bill. A very satisfactory number of signatures had been obtained to a memorial from his constituents.

Forthcoming Meetings.

MAY 18.

Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall—Lyme Lea, Swan Lane—Miss Simpson will speak on Electoral Reform. 7.45 p.m.

Dewsbury—Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall—Speaker: The Right Hon. W. Runciman, M.P.—Chairman: Major P. B. Walker—Collection for Prisoners in Germany. 7.30 p.m.

MAY 19.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Jumble Sale (Soldiers' Wives and Families). 3 p.m.

MAY 21.

Blackburn—Mrs. Thoday and Mrs. Blincoe, on "Electoral Reform" and "Women as Citizens."

MAY 22.

Edinburgh—The Mound—Open-air Demonstration (joint)—Speaker: Miss Louisa Lumsden, LL.D. 7.30 p.m.

MAY 23.

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street. 3—5 p.m.

MAY 24.

Manchester—Central Hall, Salford—Chair: Rev. A. G. Cornibeer—Speaker: Mr. G. G. Armstrong. 7.30 p.m.

MEMORIAL TO MRS. HARLEY.

The West Midland Federation is raising a Memorial Fund in memory of the late Mrs. Harley, who had always been connected with the Federation, and who was its Chairman at the time of her death.

The memorial will take the form of a "Loan Fund" in connection with the London School of Medicine for Women, the idea being that grants shall be made to suitable women, to be repaid within a given number of years after qualifying. By this means it is hoped that women who would otherwise be unable to continue their medical course, even with the aid of scholarships, may be able to continue their chosen work.

Contributions will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Dymond, Hampton Grange, Halford.

On May 9th, Lady Sassoon was "At Home" to friends to listen to the experiences of Motor Transport drivers of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals on the Roumanian front. The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield described the daily routine of transporting the wounded from the front to the different hospitals, a species of driving which requires the utmost skill in that roadless country. The transport in the course of obeying orders had occasion to take part in three retreats, and had considerable difficulty in saving some of the cars which were in want of repair, and in particular the Burford lorry, which had to be towed. Mrs. Haverfield concluded by saying how much she owed to the loyalty of her drivers.

A collection was taken, and donations are still coming in as a result of the meeting.

Scottish Hospital Meetings.

MAY 19th.—Crane Hall, Liverpool—Concert, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Twemlow. 8 p.m.

MAY 20th.—Queen's Hall—Concert of the Band of the Inns of Court O.T.C. (See notice.) 3 p.m

MAY 23rd.—At Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 3 p.m.

Coming Events.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—A meeting, to be conducted by the Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A., to pray for wisdom, strength, and love, has been arranged by the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, and will take place in the Lecture Hall, City Temple, on the 22nd inst., from 3 to 4 p.m.

Miss A. Maude Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, twice next Sunday; services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A SERIES OF LECTURES on "The Charter of Christianity," at the Collegium House, 92, St. George's-sq., S.W., every Thursday, at 5.30 p.m. May 24th—Speaker: The Rev. W. Temple. Subject: "For the Relations Between Classes." Chairman: Mr. Malcolm Spencer. Single lectures, 1s.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN SUFFRAGE.—"Justice, Wisdom, Love."—Devotional Meeting will be held in Lecture Hall, City Temple (entrance Sexton's House, Plum Tree-ct., Farringdon-st.), Tuesday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A. Unite with us.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W. Wed., May 23rd, 8 p.m. "Woman's Opportunity." The Rev. Hugh Chapman. Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. E. L. Franklin.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Public Meeting Tuesday, 3 o'clock, in the New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. May 22nd.—"Concerts at the Front." Miss Olga Hartley. Admission free.

THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVERTISING WOMEN.—Meeting, June 4th, at the Connaught Rooms, Gt. Queen-st., at 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Wareham Smith. Subject: "Is a Government Scheme of Advertising to Push British Goods Possible?" All women holding responsible business positions are cordially invited.

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.—Annual Convention, Sunday, May 27th, at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore-st., W. (late Bechstein), 11.15 a.m. Public Lecture by Mr. D. N. Dunlop, on "The Treasure of the Wise"; and at 7 p.m. by Mr. H. Baillie Weaver, on "Brotherhood—A Universal Law." Music at both meetings. Admission free.

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(Continued on page 72

Continued from page 71.

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